(i) Waiver of loans from Steel Development Fund and the Government of India.

(ii) Provision of Government guarantee to raise loans to finance Voluntary Retirement Scheme and repayment of past obligations.

(iii) Divestment of non-Core Units while protecting jobs of existing employees.

(iv) Conversion of HSCO, a sick and loss making subsidiary, to a joint venture company with minority shareholding for SAIL.

SAIL is also implementing the following steps to improve its financial performance.

(i) A reduction in operational costs by reducing input costs, reducing consumption of raw materials and other inputs and by increasing operating efficiencies;

(ii) Improvement in techno-economic parameters such as fuel and power consumption;

(iii) Increased recovery for services/facilities;

(iv) Right sizing manpower through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(v) Assets restructuring;

(vi) Disposal of idle assets; and

(vii) Financial restructuring.

By implementing the above measures, it is expected that SAIL will return to profitability in next two to three years.

Decision with regard to VSP

2562. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 246 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 2000 and state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken with regard to revival of Visakha Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be arrived at in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The matter is in the advanced stage of inter-ministerial consultations. The final decision is likely to be taken soon.

Losses incurred by BSP

2563. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bokaro Steel Plant has been incurring heavy loss during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the losses with reasons thereof in the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the details; and

(d) the action taken against the official responsible in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) has incurred losses only in 1998-99 and in the first nine months of 1999-2000. The details of profit/loss (–) for the last five years is as under :

Year	Profit/Loss (Rs. crores)
1994-95	662
1995-96	806
1996-97	357
1997-98	367
1998-99	–165
1999-2000 (April-Dec'99)	–236